

30. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 29 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Federal Emergency Management Agency To Act as Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

November 26, 2002

Memorandum for the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to Act as Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. Order of Succession.

During any period when both the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (Director) and the Deputy Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (Deputy Director) have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Director, the following officers of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Director, if they are eligible to act as Director under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as the Director or Deputy Director is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Director:

Administrator of the United States Fire Administration;
Administrator of the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration;
Assistant Director, Administration and Resource Planning Directorate; and
Regional Director, Region IV.

Section 2. Exceptions.

- (a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall

act as Director pursuant to this memorandum.

- (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345–3349d, to depart from this order in designating an acting Director.

Section 3. Termination.

This memorandum shall terminate immediately upon the transfer of the authorities, functions, personnel, and assets of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to the Department of Homeland Security.

Section 4. Publication.

The Director is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 2.

Memorandum on Imposition and Waiver of Sanctions Under Section 604 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003

November 29, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2003–04

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Imposition and Waiver of Sanctions Under Section 604 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003

Pursuant to the authority contained in section 604 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (“the Act”) (Public Law 107–228), and pursuant to section 603 of that Act, regarding noncompliance by the PLO and the Palestinian Authority with certain commitments, I hereby impose the sanction set out in section 604(a)(2), “Downgrade in Status of the PLO Office in the United States.” This sanction is imposed for a period of 180 days from the date hereof or until such time as the next report required by section 603 of the Act is transmitted to the Congress, whichever is later. You are authorized and directed to transmit to the appropriate

congressional committees the initial report described in section 603 of the Act.

Furthermore, I hereby determine that it is in the national security interest of the United States to waive that sanction, pursuant to section 604 of the Act. This waiver shall be effective for a period of 180 days from the date hereof or until such time as the next report required by section 603 of the Act is transmitted to the Congress, whichever is later.

You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 4, 2002]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 2, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on December 5.

Remarks on Signing the North American Wetlands Conservation Reauthorization Act

December 2, 2002

The President. Please be seated. Thank you. Glad you're here. Welcome to the White House.

Today we're taking important action to conserve North America's wetlands, which will help keep our water clean and help provide habitat for hundreds of species of wildlife. Through this legislation, the Federal Government will continue its partnership with landowners, conservation groups, and States to save and improve millions of acres of wetlands. The North American Wetlands Conservation Reauthorization Act shows our concern for the environment and our respect for future generations of Americans.

I appreciate two members of my Cabinet who are here today. I'm honored the Secretary of the Interior, Gale Norton, is with us, the Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman; thank you both for coming.

I appreciate the Ambassador, Ambassador Kergin from Canada, for being here as well. Mr. Ambassador, glad you're here. Thanks for coming.

I want to thank Bob Smith, Senator from New Hampshire, for being here and for his work on this bill. I want to thank Wayne Gilchrest from Maryland—he's got a big interest in wetlands as well as the Chesapeake Bay—for coming here. I appreciate so very much Robert Underwood, ranking member from Guam, for coming. I'm sorry that Jim Hansen is not with us today. He was the chairman of the House Committee on Resources, who helped write and sponsor and get this legislation passed through the Congress.

I appreciate Steve Williams, who is the director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, for coming today. Where are you, Steve? There you are. Thanks for coming.

And I want to thank the president of Ducks Unlimited, John Tomke; thanks for coming, John. I'm glad you all are here. And I want to thank you all for coming as well.

With this signature today, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act will be reauthorized for 5 years. The law authorizes Federal money to match donations from sportsmen, State wildlife agencies, conservationists, and landowners. Since 1991, more than \$462 million in Federal grants have helped to encourage \$1.3 billion in contributions from others.

Together these funds have restored streams and rivers, reestablished native plants and trees, acquired land that is home to more than a third of America's threatened and endangered species. Because about 75 percent of the wetlands are held privately, we need to encourage cooperation with our landowners. This legislation shows that when Government and landowners and conservationists and others work together, we can make dramatic progress in preserving the beauty and the quality of our environment.

I want to thank the Congress for supporting this legislation. And I ask the Members of the Congress and the two Cabinet members who are here today to join me as I sign this important piece of legislation.

[At this point, the President signed the bill.]

The President. Thank you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:30 a.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred